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HEADQUARTERS  
DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
WASHINGTON, D.C., 22 September 1964

PERSONNEL—GENERAL

ARMY AVIATION OFFICER CAREER PROGRAM

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**1. Purpose.** The Army Aviation Officer Career Program is designed to—

a. Develop qualified commissioned officers for all phases of Army aviation.

b. Provide career opportunities for commissioned Army aviators commensurate with their capabilities.

c. Provide effective training, administration, and efficient utilization of commissioned Army aviators.

d. Provide trained commissioned Army aviators for emergency requirements.

**2. Scope.** The Army Aviation Officer Career Program is applicable to all officer aviators on extended active duty. Reserve component officers not on active duty are encouraged to pattern their military careers in accordance with the provisions outlined herein.

**3. Entry into program.** Male officers of all branches and components of the Army may apply for flight training as prescribed in AR 611-110. Initial and subsequent aeronautical designations will be awarded officers who complete the prescribed training and meet the criteria announced in AR 600-106.

**4. Career guidance for Army aviators.** The Army officer who is an Army aviator must be competent to perform duties both in aviation and in his career branch. Maintenance of this dual qualification demands the full energy and dedication of the individual. To this end the officer aviator must seek and take advantage of assignments and opportunities which contribute to his development as

a professional Army officer. A fundamental and sustaining knowledge of career branch operations, the arms or service support, and staff procedures is required of the officer aviator. Experience and knowledge in these areas is acquired through participation in the arms or service support training and through assignments to a variety of command and staff positions. This knowledge and experience enables the aviator to perform his duties more effectively and prepares him for staff and command positions of increasing responsibilities.

**5. Categories of assignments.** To aid in identification of positions related to the Army Aviation Officer Career Program, three categories of assignments are established:

a. *Category A—Aviation assignments.* All positions for which piloting an aircraft is a requirement or for which a current knowledge of piloting is a prerequisite. These positions are indicated in tables of organization and tables of distribution by an appropriate aviator MOS or prefix digit 6.

b. *Category B—Career development assignments outside aviation.* These are assignments which do not require aviation skills or experience, but which contribute to the development of the aviator as a career Army officer. They include branch material, branch immaterial, and student assignments.

(1) Category B branch material command and staff duty normally will be performed at the brigade (or equivalent level) and lower echelons by aviators up through the

✓ \*This regulation supersedes AR 600-105, 21 August 1959.

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grade of major, and at division and lower echelons by lieutenant colonel and colonel aviators.

- (2) Category B branch immaterial assignments may be at any appropriate level and are subject to individual approval by Headquarters, Department of the Army. Requests for branch immaterial assignments will specify unit, MOS, and duty positions to which the officer aviator is to be assigned.
- (3) Category B student assignments include all schools, except aviation, which the officer aviator attends in a permanent change of station status.

*c. Category C—Other assignments.* Aviators assigned to primary duties other than Category A or B described in *a* and *b* above normally, will be indefinitely suspended from flying status. Subsequent return to aviation duty and to flying status, upon application of the individual, will depend on the needs of the service.

**6. Responsibilities.** *a.* The Deputy Chief of Staff for Personnel, Department of the Army, is responsible for General Staff supervision of the Army Aviation Officer Career Program.

*b.* The Director of Officer Personnel, Office of Personnel Operations, Department of the Army, is responsible for selection, qualification, assignment, and career development programming of Army aviators of all branches, except Army Medical Service (AMEDS).

*c.* The Surgeon General, Department of the Army is responsible for selection, qualification, assignment, and career development of AMEDS aviators.

*d.* Officer aviators are responsible for maintaining flying proficiency in all assignments unless minimum requirements are waived or excused under provisions of AR 95-32. Commanders are responsible that both time and equipment are made available for assigned and attached aviators to meet combat readiness requirements prescribed in AR 95-32.

**7. Assignment policies and procedures.** *a.* Officers normally will be assigned to aviation duties for a minimum of 3 years following graduation from an initial flight training course. Exceptions may be made for attendance at branch career courses and similar assignments.

*b.* An officer aviator should attend career course level schooling during his period of eligibility. Attendance at higher level military schools is by selection on a competitive basis.

*c.* Except for assignments described in paragraph 5*b*, aviators will be programed for successive aviation assignments throughout their careers. Aviation assignments and training courses will be varied, consistent with the needs of the Army, to develop flying skills; knowledge of aviation operations, maintenance, and equipment; and command and staff experience.

*d.* The aviation program is designed to permit officer aviators to spend a minimum of 1 year in each five in career development assignments other than aviation and schools. At least 2 years of branch material troop duty should be completed within the first 10 years of commissioned service.

*e.* Career development assignments other than aviation and schooling normally are limited to periods of 12 to 24 consecutive months, depending on requirements for and availability of aviators. Applicable limitations and changes thereto will be announced by Department of the Army in worldwide messages as required. In no case will this type assignment exceed 3 consecutive years. Assignments in such positions beyond 3 consecutive years will result in suspension from flying status.

*f.* Officer aviators who are otherwise eligible may participate in the Degree Completion Program. In addition, they may participate in the Advanced Civil Schools Program in subject areas for which aviation-related requirements have been established. Participation in other subject areas of the Advanced Civil Schools Program is exceptional and normally, will result in suspension from flying status for the officer concerned, effective upon the date of entry into the program.

*g.* Orders assigning officer aviators to aviation duties will specify the appropriate aviator MOS or prefix digit.

*h.* Orders changing the primary duty of an officer aviator will state the category of the new assignment. In the case of Category B assignments, orders will further specify branch material, branch immaterial, or student duties. Assignment of officer aviators to other than Category A assignments normally will be announced in Headquarters, Department of the Army special orders. Commanding generals of major commands, ZI



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armies, and Military District of Washington, U.S. Army, may assign officer aviators to other than aviation duties after having first received branch clearance from the Department of the Army. Requests for such clearance for all except AMEDS aviators should be addressed to the Chief of Personnel Operations, ATTN: Officer Personnel Directorate (Career Branch concerned), Department of the Army, Washington, D.C., 20310.

i. Limitations on Category B assignments described in paragraph 7e are established by Department of the Army to provide all officer aviators the opportunity to participate in career broadening assignments. Upon completion of the prescribed

[OPXAA]

By Order of the Secretary of the Army:

Official:

J. C. LAMBERT,  
*Major General, United States Army,  
The Adjutant General.*

Category B tour of duty, officer aviators will be reassigned to aviation duty. Local commanders will obtain branch clearance as indicated in *h* above and make reassignment.

j. Participation in the Army Aviation Officer Career Program will not preclude participation in aviation-related assignments in specialist programs such as research and development or logistics.

8. **Release from Army Aviation Officer Career Program.** Release from the Program is governed by AR 600-107. Personal requests normally will be granted only after completion of 3 years of aviation duty.

HAROLD K. JOHNSON,  
*General, United States Army,  
Chief of Staff.*

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